

METHOD OF INCORPORATING LENS ABERRATION INFORMATION  
INTO VARIOUS PROCESS FLOWS

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ABSTRACT

A method of evaluating a stepper process affected by lens aberration is provided. The method includes receiving, from a facilitator responding to a request, a set of optical models including lens aberration information, wherein the lens aberration information is difficult to extract from the optical models. A decision can be made using the set of optical models. The decision could include determining which stepper(s) can be used (or should be avoided) with a mask, a layout, a process, and/or a chemistry. The decision could include ranking a plurality of steppers based on mask data to determine the best stepper (or next best steppers) to use.